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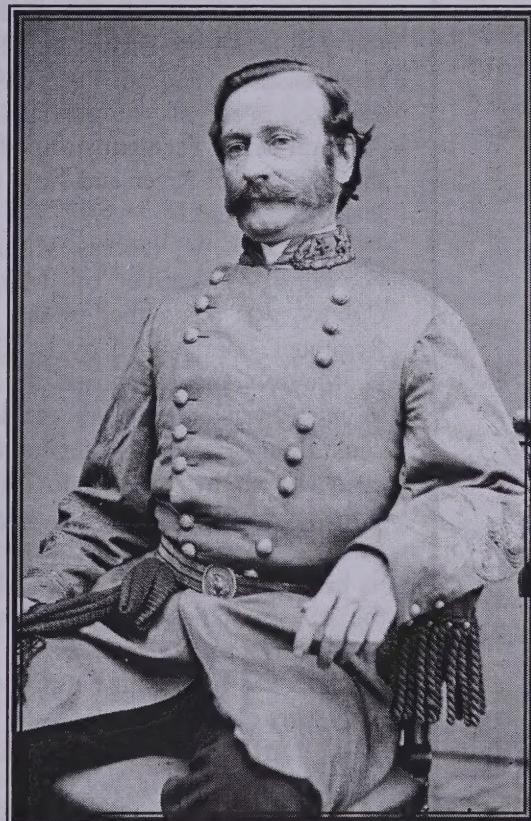
September 2011

COMING EVENTS AT LOBRANO HOUSE

The monthly luncheon meeting will be held on Thursday, September 15, 2011, at noon at the Kate Lobrano House. Guest speaker for the program will be Renee McClendon, volunteer for the National History Day Program in Mississippi. **Reservations are required** and may be made by calling 467-4090. Please call **by noon on Wednesday, September 14**, to make your reservation, to help us plan seating which is limited to forty-eight people, and to apprise us of the number for whom to prepare. The price of the lunch is \$10.00.

ANNUAL CEMETERY TOUR

October looms, so it's time to begin final plans for the Hancock County Historical Society Eighteenth Annual Cemetery Tour. It will be held on Halloween night, Monday, **October 31, 2011**, at Cedar Rest Cemetery on Second Street. We will need volunteers to help prepare the cemetery for the tour (mark the path, etc.), to portray citizens buried there, to act as guides, and to serve at the Lobrano House. We also seek donations of cookies, candy, cupcakes, etc. To volunteer, please call the Society at 467-4090.



Major General Mansfield Lovell

Fort Lovell Civil War Fort of Shieldsboro

By
Russell Guerin

Tradition has included two possible sites for a Civil War fort in Shieldsboro, now known as Bay St. Louis. One site is believed to have been at the corner of St. Charles and the beach; the other, on Leopold St. about two or three hundred yards across North Beach

Born in Washington, D. C., on October 20, 1822, Major General Mansfield Lovell was an 1842 graduate of West Point who served in the Mexican War and left the U. S. Army in 1854 to work in business in New York City. In 1861, he joined the Army of the Confederate States of America and commanded troops in New Orleans and Corinth, MS. After the war he returned to New York City where he resided until his death on June 1, 1884. He is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Bronx, New York.

Boulevard from the present-day yacht club. Collateral evidence might favor Leopold St. as there have been reports of finding Civil War artifacts such as buttons nearby. On the other hand, legend seems to have favored St. Charles at the beach.

In order to try to identify the location of Fort Lovell, a study has been made of the Foxworth diary on file in the Lobrano House.

First one may wish to know why the fortification was named Fort Lovell. Even though he was not sta-

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LOBRANO HOUSE HOURS

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Closed: 12:00—1:00 (lunch)

MISSION STATEMENT

"TO PRESERVE THE GENERAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF HANCOCK COUNTY AND TO PRESERVE THE KATE LOBRANO HOUSE AND COLLECTIONS THEREIN; TO RESEARCH AND INTERPRET LIFE IN HANCOCK COUNTY; AND TO ENCOURAGE AN APPRECIATION OF AND INTEREST IN HISTORICAL PRESERVATION."

tioned here, Major General Mansfield Lovell was the commander of the army that included the 7th Regiment, Mississippi Infantry. From early on in the war, General Lovell was assigned to New Orleans to replace General David E. Twiggs, even before New Orleans was attacked. Twiggs, in his seventies and in poor health, had served in the U. S. Army for fifty years. This replacement occurred in October 1861, scarcely six months before Admiral David Farragut steamed up the Mississippi River and New Orleans surrendered.

Lt. J. M. (Jobias Mithias) Foxworth, a native of Marion County, was a member of the 7th Regiment, commanded by Lt. Col. H. Mayson and composed mostly of men from areas north of Hancock County. The lieutenant had been chosen by election to be an officer. His diary covers several periods, the one of most concern to us being that which he wrote when the 7th was stationed at Fort Lovell in Shieldsboro. The dates on his pages cover from mid-February to early May of 1862.

At the time of the diary entries, the 7th had not been involved in any combat, although it is evident that they were ready, almost eager, to be transferred to an area where fighting was imminent. Mentioned were Columbus and Memphis.

But in Hancock County, the danger was from a sea invasion by Union forces from the Mississippi Sound. Official Civil War documents in the Lobrano House reflect Gen. Lovell's appeal in January 1862 to return another regiment to his command. He wrote to Secretary of War Judah P. Benjamin on January 8, imploring him to return the 3rd Regiment, which had been transferred to Columbus. The reasons for the request were clearly

stated: "The Third Mississippi Regiment is composed largely of the fishermen, oystermen, and sailors of Louis Bay, Biloxi, Ocean Springs, &c, and are well acquainted with all the inlets, bayous, and soundings of that intricate and difficult coast, and can be of more service there than any other body of men."

It was for the stated reason that in March 1862, the 7th was replaced. The men were taken by boats from a pier at Shieldsboro to New Orleans and then to combat areas. It is in the recounting by Foxworth of the removal that we may be able to make a good guess as to where Fort Lovell had been located.

In the diary, Lt. Foxworth tells many things besides his location. He was an educated man, a reader of Ancient Greek poetry and Shakespeare, and he mused over their writings in his diary in a considerable number of paragraphs. He tells also of the dealings and argument of his men, of their drinking, and of their lack of discipline. Very little of his writing is of the geography of the area.

Still, there are clues. Some of these can be measured against what we already know about the city as it was constituted in 1862. We know, for example, of the whereabouts of the residences of some of the leading citizens. These have been traced through deed searches and other official documents. In addition, we have the Times-Picayune article of 1922 in which James A. Cuevas remembers back to the 1840's and identified from memory where all the important houses and businesses were located. Not always accurate, of course, his recollections represent an important gauge for the location of landmarks.

To a high degree of accu-

racy, we know the locations of such as Weinberg's tailor shop, the grocery, the post office, the two piers owned by John Martin, Manuel's place, Cedar Point, the hotel belonging to the Levis family (the Clifton), and the packet boat called the *Oregon*.

One may ask why the aforementioned areas are listed. The reason is they are all referred to in the Foxworth diary. They are not described in a way sufficient to pinpoint the comings and goings of Foxworth and his troops, but all are clearly close by. A few mentions favor the location behind the marina on Leopold St. One is that pickets—sentries—were stationed at Cedar Point. It seems reasonable to believe that they would have been placed near enough to the fort to make a difference in case of an unusual activity, such as an invasion. All through the diary, a reader may be caused to wonder about locations, but there is nothing that offers any certitude.

It is not until the end of the Shieldsborough segment, when Foxworth narrates the vacating of the 7th, that we might conclude that the location was indeed Leopold St. Foxworth and his group sailed on the *Arrow*; the others, on the *Grey Cloud*. The latter sailed first, but Foxworth reports that the *Arrow* could not catch the *Grey Cloud* until near the wharf "on the lake." In those days, "the lake" referred to Lake Borgne and was considered to include the coastal area all the way to the Bay of St. Louis.

This means that the boats had left from a place above the wharf at Washington St. We know that wharf was the one that Cuevas called "the Louisiana wharf in front of the Spotorno place." Cuevas also details the location of the second wharf, "the Hancock Wharf," as being in front of John Martin's

house, clearly on the bay side—that is, northeast from the Louisiana wharf and toward Cedar Point.

While the Foxworth diary may not tell as much as we would like about our area during Civil War days, it is certainly a readable document that is highly personal and informative. Indeed, we would have been fortunate to have had a member of the returning 3rd Regiment, someone native to this area, to leave his observations for posterity.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES:

- "General Mansfield Lovell, CSA." *History Central* 19 Aug. 2011 <www.historycentral.com/bio/CWcGENS>.
 "Mansfield Lovell." *Civil War Reference* 2001—2011. 19 Aug. 2011 <www.civilwarreference.com/people/index>.

Did You Know This about Hancock County?

By
Scott Bagley

Did you know that a very well-known mid-20th century writer of juvenile historical fiction lived, wrote, and died in Hancock County? Caroline Dale Snedeker, who wrote more than fifteen historical novels during her lifetime, spent a considerable part of her life in Bay St. Louis.

The great-granddaughter of Robert Owen, the Welsh reformer and founder of the progressive community of New Harmony, Indiana, Mrs. Snedeker was born in New Harmony in 1871. Nourished on her grandmother's stories of early New Harmony and its ideals, as well as her mother's singing and love of music, she early developed a keen interest in history, literature, and classical music.

When Caroline was fourteen, her family moved to Cincinnati where she entered the College of Music, graduating with honors. In 1903 she married Charles H. Snedeker, who at the time was the Dean of the Cathedral of Cincinnati. The couple moved to Hempstead, New York, where Mr. Snedeker encouraged his wife and advised her on her writing. Many of her novels were set in ancient Greece and Rome, and some later ones were set in New Harmony.

In 1918, when her husband's health began to fail, the couple moved to Bay St. Louis, where they were to spend the rest of their lives. Caroline Snedeker died in 1956 and is buried in Live Oak Cemetery in Pass Christian.

While Snedeker's books are not as well known today, and considered by some to be out of style, they are distinguished by conscientious research and careful attention to detail and were well received by critics when they were published.

SOURCES:

- Helbig, Althea K. "Snedeker, Caroline Dale." *Novelguide.com*. 2000. 24 August 2011. <www.novelguide.com>.
 Scharff, Robert G. *Louisiana's Loss, Mississippi's Gain*. Lawrenceville, VA: Brunswick Publishing Corp., 1999.
 "Sketches of Two Bay St. Louis Citizens Who Achieved International Acclaim." *Hancock County Eagle Souvenir Centennial Edition* August 1958: 26.

Repair of Statue

By
Scott Bagley

Thanks to the generosity of many hands and pocketbooks around the country, Tercentenary Park in Bay St. Louis has been beautifully restored. Jean Baptiste



Le Moyne Sieur de Bienville, whose statue stands in the center of the park, would indeed be proud but even prouder he would be if the statue itself were completely restored. Unfortunately some storm damage at the base of the statue remains. If you would like to help remedy this situation and make Bienville whole again, please consider making a donation for this purpose to the Historical Society. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Checks can be made out to the Hancock County Historical Society with the memo line reflecting "Bienville statue." The Hancock County Historical Society is a 501 c 3 tax exempt organization so all donations are tax deductible.

GUIDES NEEDED

The Society needs guides to help with the 18th Annual Cemetery Tour. If you can help, please call the Lobrano House at 467-4090.

former publisher of two quarterlies on Mississippi ancestors and past president of two state genealogical organizations.

Three of the more than eighteen primary families featured in the 550 plus page book should be of great interest to Hancock County genealogists: the families of Juan Cuevas, Julius C. Monet, and David Evans.

Among the other primary lines in the book are the Carpenter, Carter, James, Foster, Clawson, Brown, Farris, Kelly (two separate lines), Buie, Patterson, Smith, Lemons, and Myers families. The full name index has approximately 750 surnames and twenty-five hundred first names.

The book costs \$75, post-paid, and can be ordered directly from Ms. McGinnis at 1500 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS 39211.

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By
Ronnie Margaret Farris McGinnis

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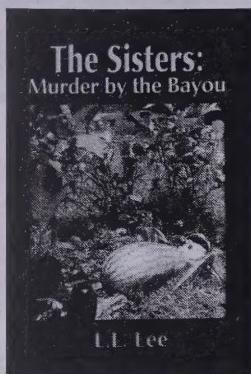
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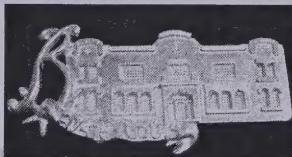
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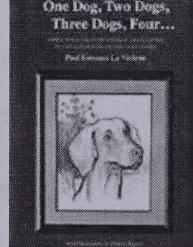
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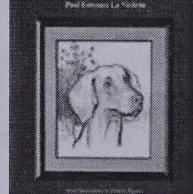
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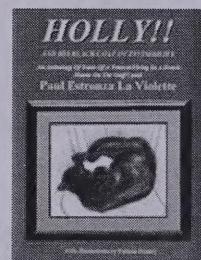
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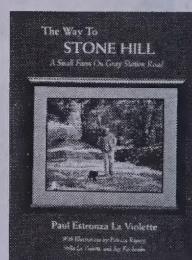
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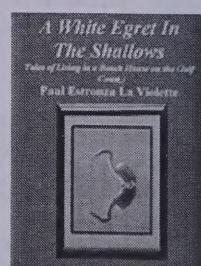
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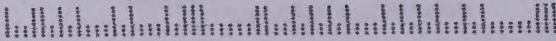
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